HONOR CODE PLEDGE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**THE JUDICIAL BRANCH: ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SUPREME COURT AND THE LIMITS OF JUDICIAL POWER**

**How does the Constitution of the United States define and limit judicial power?**

**How do different levels of government participate in the judicial system?**

**How are the court systems of Virginia and the United States organized?**

**Which legal procedures and processes are used in criminal and civil cases?**

**THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**

**How does the Supreme Court use the Bill of Rights to protect individual rights?**

**How does the judicial branch participate in the system of checks and balances?**

**How does the United States Supreme Court interpret the meaning of the law?**

***Match each of the answers listed below to the most appropriate question on the reverse of this page.***

A. Article Three of the Constitution defines and limits the powers of the Judicial Branch.

B. The Supreme Court determines if laws – and how they are being enforced – are constitutional.

C. Criminal cases must be proven “beyond a reasonable doubt.” Civil cases only require that a preponderance of the evidence indicate guilt.

D. The United States federal courts are organized into districts; in Virginia there are Circuit Courts and General District Courts.

E. The Supreme Court can rule laws and executive orders of the President unconstitutional.

F. Local, state, and federal courts all interpret the laws. A violation of the law – or an appeal – will proceed from court to court accordingly.

G. The Bill of Rights guarantee freedom of speech, religion, the right to petition the government, and freedom from unlawful seizure of property

**Skim through pages 144 – 145 in your textbook. How does the Constitution of the United States define and limit judicial power? Give at least three (3) examples of powers which are granted to the Judiciary in the Constitution. Then, list at least three ways that the jurisdiction – or right to rule – are limited by the Constitution.**

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